

November \_\_\_\_, 2005

Senator Ted Stevens, Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Dirksen 119  
Washington DC 20510

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Dirksen 119  
Washington DC 20510

Honorable C. W. Bill Young, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H 149 Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable John P. Murtha, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Stevens, Ranking Member Inouye, Chairman Young, and Ranking Member Murtha:

We urge you to include the Senate-approved McCain provision (Amendment #1977) and House-passed Markey provision (Amendment #322) in the final conference version of the FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Act.

As you know the McCain amendment passed the Senate by a vote of 90-9. The adoption of this amendment is an important step towards restoring our nation's reputation for respecting human rights and in preventing abuses similar to those that occurred in Abu Ghraib.

The McCain Amendment prevents cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of any individual in the custody or under the physical control of the United States Government, regardless of nationality or physical location. We support the McCain amendment and would strongly oppose any changes to the language of the amendment that would allow exemptions for the CIA, other government agencies or government contractors, or which would permit the President to waive the amendment's prohibitions. We would also strongly oppose any geographical exemptions to the amendment's prohibitions on cruel and inhuman treatment of prisoners. Torture is always abhorrent, regardless of the location, regardless of the agency and regardless of the occupant of the White House.

The Markey Amendment, which passed the House by voice, prohibits the use of funds that would contravene the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and various U.S. and international laws and regulations adopted to implement the Convention's prohibitions. We also support this amendment, which is aimed at reaffirming America's commitment to the Torture Convention, including its ban on the rendition of prisoners to countries where they are likely to face torture. Outsourcing torture is just as deplorable as carrying it out ourselves and should be strictly forbidden.

Adoption of the McCain and Markey amendments will send an important signal to the rest of the world that the United States Government does not support the use of torture as a means of interrogation, and does not support the rendition of prisoners to countries that are likely to torture them. We strongly urge you to retain both the McCain and Markey amendments in the final Conference Report on the FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

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Edward J. Markey

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James P. McGovern

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Jerrold Nadler

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Thomas H. Allen

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Tammy Baldwin

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Michael Capuano

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Benjamin L. Cardin

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Emanuel Cleaver

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Danny K. Davis

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Sam Farr

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Raul M. Grijalva

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Rush Holt

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Dennis J. Kucinich

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Betty McCollum

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Jim McDermott

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Brad Miller

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Janice D. Schakowsky

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Vic Snyder

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John M. Spratt, Jr

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Ellen Tauscher

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Chris Van Hollen

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Hilda L. Solis

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Diana L. DeGette

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George Miller

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Bernard Sanders

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Jose E. Serrano

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Bart Stupak

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Henry Waxman

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Lynn Woolsey

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Marty Meehan

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Carolyn B. Maloney

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Gary L. Ackerman

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Earl Blumenauer

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Corrine Brown

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John Conyers, Jr.

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Tom Lantos

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Peter DeFazio

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William Delahunt

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Barney Frank

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Joseph Crowley

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Lloyd Doggett

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John Lewis

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Charles A. Gonzalez

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Stephen F. Lynch

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Zoe Lofgren

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Frank Pallone, Jr.

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Adam Smith

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Mark Udall

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Diane E. Watson

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Harold E. Ford, Jr.

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Howard L. Berman

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Jane Harman

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Louise M. Slaughter

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Tom Udall

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Sheila Jackson Lee

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David E. Price

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Fortney H. Stark